(d) if so, whether any machinery is being devised to monitor their actual conduct on the roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A crash programme of refresher course with a batch of 150 drivers per week is being conducted since September, 1988 in collaboration with Delhi Traffic Police and Petroleum Conservation Research Association. Special emphasis is laid on the behavioural aspects, road safety, safe driving, and fuel consumption, etc. The drivers are given practical training on the roads and their driving habits are checked for effecting further improvements.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) At the end of the course, the drivers are interviewed and they are graded according to their performance. Follow up action is taken by deploying supervisory staff with instructors to check their driving habits on the roads and to take remedial actions by the DTC.

Harassment of Indian visitors to Pakistan

312. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian visitors to Pakistan are being harassed by Customs and Immigration officials in that country;

(b) if so, whether this has been brought to the notice of the Government of India recently; and

(c) whether Government of India have taken up the matter with the Pakistan Government; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have seen reports to the effect that certain Indian visitors to Lahore have been harassed by Pakistani officials. No specific complaints in this regard have been received by our Embassy in Islamabad, so far. This matter has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan.

Financial position of Indian Airlnes

313. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is heading for a sharp downward trend in its performance in the current financial year;

(b) if so, to what extent the financial position received a set-back during 1988-89; and

(c) to what extent it was less in 1987-88 and what efforts are being made to improve its position during 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The current financial year has just started and Indian Airlines has budgeted a pre-tax profit of Rs. 9.15 crores during 1989-90 despite the higher depreciation and interest charges due to induction of Airbus aircraft. The profit before depreciation and interest in 1989-90 is expected to be higher than in 1987-88 and 1986-87.

(b) Indian Airlines earned a pre-tax profit of Rs. 38.10 crores during 1988-89.

(c) In 1987-88 Indian Airlines earned a pre-tax profit of Rs. 78.66 crores as against Rs. 68.74 crores in 1986-87.